

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakiuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,687,017), and further in view of Natsudaira et al. (US 5,740,514).

Summary of Response to the Office Action

Applicants amend independent claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-14, and 16-18 to further define the invention and amend dependent claims 4, 15, and 19 to reflect changes made in their respective independent claims. Furthermore, Applicants add new independent claim 20. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are presently pending for consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakiuchi et al., and further in view of Natsudaira et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1-3, 12-14, as amended all recite an image processor including, in part, “a plurality of recognition parts, wherein each of the plurality of recognition parts is dedicated to process a specific type of rendering object that makes up the image data.” Similarly, independent claims 6-8, and 16-18, as amended, all recite an image processing method including, in part, “each of a plurality of recognition parts is dedicated to process a specific type of rendering object.” Furthermore, independent claim 11, as amended, recites a computer-readable storage medium including, in part, “each of a plurality of recognition parts is dedicated to process a specific type of rendering object.” Applicants respectfully submit that at least these features recited by amended independent claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-14, 16-18 are neither taught nor suggested by Kakiuchi et al. and Natsudaira et al., whether taken singly or combined.

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Kakiuchi et al. teaches at col. 10, lines 7-24, col. 12, lines 47-49, and as depicted in FIGs. 1, 2, and 4 that a single image recognition unit accepts and processes all types of image data to determine whether the image data includes an object of counterfeiting prevention. In addition, Natsudaira et al. teaches at col. 15, line 33 to col. 16, line 25, and as depicted in FIGs. 3-4, a step 4 of FIG. 4 implemented by the comparison circuit 25 does not process individual types of rendering objects, rather processes the various identification cards, which inherently includes multiple types of rendering objects (i.e., character, graphics, and raster image) to prevent illegal copying.

On the other hand, Applicants' claimed invention includes a plurality of recognition parts and each of the plurality of recognition parts is dedicated to process a specific type of rendering object. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Kakiuchi et al. and Natsudaira et al. taken singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest every element recited by the amended independent claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-14, and 16-18, hence dependent claims 4-5, 9-10, 15, and 19. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Natsudaira et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Kakiuchi et al.

Thus, in light of the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-14, 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn because neither Kakiuchi et al. nor Natsudaira et al., whether taken singly or combined, teaches or suggests the novel combination of features recited in the amended independent claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-14, and 16-18. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 4-5, 9-10, 15, and 19 are allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above with regard to amended independent claim 1, 6, 8, 14, and 18 upon which they respectively depend, as well as the individual features of dependent claims 4-5, 9-10, 15, and 19 recite.

New Claims 20

Applicants added new claim 20 to recite an image processor of the current invention in different way. Thus, Applicants respectfully request consideration of newly added claim 20.

CONCLUSION

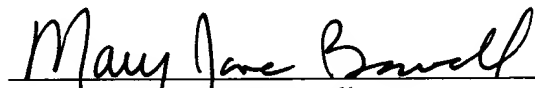
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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